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"STAR TREK"

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WE'LL BE WITHIN VISUAL RANGE OF THE ANOMALY IN 8.7 SECONDS, CAPTAIN.
ONCE, SPOCK.
JUST ONCE I'D LIKE YOU TO ROUND OFF TO THE NEAREST NUMBER.
AS A MAN OF SCIENCE, DR. MCCOY, ONE WOULD THINK YOU'D APPRECIATE THE NEED FOR PRECISION.
WHAT I'D APPRECIATE IS--
GENTLEMEN, NOT NOW.
CAPTAIN'S LOG: STARDATE : 4740.5
James T. Kirk Recording.
The ENTERPRISE has returned to DELTA VEGA, the FEDERATION quarantined planet where this ship lost TWO of its FINEST CREW members...
...and I lost my best friend.

I can not say I am GLAD to be back.
I'm even LESS PLEASED at the sight of the SPATIAL ANOMALY which CIRCLES the planet.
At first glance, it appears to be a VARIATION on the PSIONIC ENERGY which mutated LT. GARY MITCHELL and DR. ELIZABETH DEHNER--
--into POTENTIAL GODS intent on reshaping an ENTIRE UNIVERSE in their image.
CAPTAIN KIRK--WE'RE GETTING A SUBSPACE SIGNAL.
BUT...IT'S BEING BLOCKED BY THE ENERGY IN THAT SPATIAL RIFT.
STAY ON IT, UHURA.
MR. SCOTT.
HER SHIELDS ARE HOLDING, SIR.
WHATEVER THAT THING IS, THE LASS'LL BE READY.
THERE ARE NO OTHER SHIPS IN THE IMMEDIATE QUADRANT, KEPTIN.
MAINTAINING A DISTANCE OF ONE MILLION KILOMETERS FROM THE CENTER OF THE ANOMALY, SIR.
CAPTAIN. SENSORS CONFIRM THIS ANOMALY IS PURE PSIONIC ENERGY.
WHILE IT APPEARS TO LACK SENTIENCE, FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES...
ELABORATE, MR. SPOCK
...IT IS... ALIVE.
HOWEVER, VITAL ENERGY LEVELS ARE FLUCTUATING. IF IT WERE A SENTIENT BEING, I WOULD SAY IT MIGHT BE INJURED.
GREAT. DON'T ANYONE GET ANY IDEAS ABOUT BEAMING SOME COSMIC SPACE CLOUD INTO SICKBAY, BECAUSE I'LL TELL YOU RIGHT NOW---
BONES.
MR. SULU, CHEKOV. BRING US AS CLOSE TO THAT...THING...AS YOU CAN.

CAPTAIN, I'VE ISOLATED THE SIGNAL.
FROM WHO, UHURA?
KEPTIN! THERE'S SOMETHING IN THERE.
IT APPEARS TO BE A DISTRESS SIGNAL, SIR...
...BUT IT'S BEING TRANSMITTED IN A LANGUAGE THAT EVEN THE UNIVERSAL TRANSLATOR DOESN'T RECOGNIZE YET.
KEPTIN-- IT'S A SHIP!
SO IT IS, ENSIGN...BUT NOT ANY SHIP I'VE EVER SEEN.
THE ANOMALY'S READINGS ARE FLUCTUATING AGAIN, SIR. I SUGGEST WE PULL BACK.
WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE WITHOUT HELPING THE PEOPLE ABOARD THAT SHIP.
SCOTTY, CAN YOU LOCK ONTO THE SHIP WITH A TRACTOR BEAM?
But before Mr. Scott can RESPOND--
--the craft is DESTROYED in the WAKE of the anomaly's sudden EXPANSION!

MR. SPOCK?
SHIP'S SENSORS HAD PENETRATED THE ALIEN CRAFT'S HULL ONLY AN INSTANT BEFORE IT EXPLODED.
THERE WERE SEVEN LIFE FORMS ON BOARD.
SENSORS INDICATE NEAR-HUMAN READINGS.
"NEAR-HUMAN," SPOCK? WHAT THE HELL DOES THAT MEAN?
EITHER THEY WERE OR THEY WEREN'T.
IN YOUR OWN LIMITED SCOPE, THAT IS TRUE.
BUT THE FACT REMAINS THE READINGS INDICATED A VARIATION ON HUMANS...SOMETHING BETWEEN HUMAN AND HUMANOIDS.
LOOK SHARP, PEOPLE.
I DON'T WANT ANY MORE SURPRISES.
PERHAPS ONE MORE, SIR?

With NO WARNING WHATSOEVER, an ALIEN CRAFT drops out of a CLOAKED MODE...
FOR A DESOLATE PART OF THE GALAXY--
--THIS NEIGHBORHOOD IS GETTING PRETTY DARNED CROWDED!
THIS IS STILL FEDERATION SPACE, AND WHOEVER IT IS ABOARD THAT SHIP SHOULDN'T BE HERE.
IT WOULD SEEM THAT THEY HAVE THEIR WEAPONS PRIMED AND AIMED AT US.
"SEEM"?!
ISN'T THAT KIND OF VAGUE?
THEY DO NOT HAVE WEAPONS IN THE CLASSICAL SENSE.
IT SHOULD BE APPARENT TO EVEN YOU, DOCTOR, THAT WE ARE DEALING WITH HERETOFORE UNIDENTIFIED TECHNOLOGY.
LIEUTENANT, OPEN HAILING FREQUENCIES.
NO RESPONSE, CAPTAIN.
CAPTAIN-- IT APPEARS THEY'VE FIRED A PROJECTILE AT THE SHIP!
A PROJECTILE?! WHAT ARE THEY DOING-- LOBBING CANNONBALLS AT US?!
IMPACT WITH THE DEFLECTOR SHIELDS IN SIX SECONDS.
PHASERS ARE LOCKED ON, CAPTAIN.
UNLIKELY, DOCTOR.
FIVE.
FOUR.
...?
CAPTAIN-- IT HAS STOPPED ONE HUNDRED KILOMETERS FROM THE SHIP'S SHIELDING.
MR. SULU, FULL MAGNIFICATION.
WHAT IN...?!

I AM THE GLADIATOR, PRAETOR OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD.
IN THE NAME OF THE MAJESTRIX LILANDRA NERAMANI--
--I CLAIM THIS PLANET AS THE PROPERTY OF THE CHILDREN OF SHARRA AND K'YTHRI
LEAVE NOW, AND YOU WILL LIVE.
SPOCK-- HE'S TALKING TO US?
HOW IS HE EXISTING IN SPACE...HOW CAN HE SPEAK IN A VACUUM?
HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?
QUITE SIMPLY, CAPTAIN--
--IT IS NOT.
JIM, LOOK!
IT'S ALMOST AS IF HE'S GOING TO...

DID HE JUST... PUNCH MY SHIP?
WHAM!
AYE, CAPT'N. AND THE LADDIE DAMAGED THE SHIELDS!
PERART OR BE DESTROYED.
THIS IS YOUR LAST WARNING.
USS ENTERPRISE NCC-1701
NO INJURIES REPORTED.
SIR, I'VE PARTIALLY TRANSLATED THE SIGNAL FROM THE DESTROYED SHIP.
KEEP WORKING ON IT. I WANT TO KNOW WHO THOSE PEOPLE WERE--AND WHAT CONNECTION THEY HAD TO OUR FRIEND OUT THERE.
IT WAS A "ROYAL TRANSPORT" OF...SOMETHING CALLED THE "ISHIVAD EMPIRE"!

MR. SCOTT, HOW LONG BEFORE ALL THE SHIELDS ARE UP AGAIN?
ONLY AS LONG AS IT TAKES ME TIGET TO ENGINEERING.
THEN GET MOVING, SCOTTY.
AYE, SIR.
THESE PEOPLE ARE GOOD.
AND CONSIDERIN' WE'RE SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE O' DEEP SPACE--
--'CEPT FOR SPOCK, THEY ALL LOOK SURPRISINGLY HUMAN.
PROBABLY THE LAST THING WE EXPECTED TIPIND WHEN WE TELEPORTED OFF OUR SHIP THE INSTANT BEFORE IT EXPLODED.
IF WE'RE LUCKY-- WE CAN GET OFF THIS SHIP AND DOWN ON THE PLANET...
--WITHOUT HAVIN' TO HURT NOBODY.
ODD. I KNOW THIS SHIP LIKE I KNOW THE BACK OF MY HAND.
IT ALMOST FEELS AS IF I'M BEING... WATCHED?
SCHLACK!
IF WE AIN'T LUCKY--
--TOO BAD FOR THE CREW OF THE ENTERPRISE!
HE WAS NAMED LOGAN WHEN HE WAS BORN.
SHORTLY AFTER HIS MUTANT ABILITIES KICKED IN, HE TOOK THE NAME WOLVERINE...
...FOR OBVIOUS REASONS.

THANKS FOR THE LIFT, SCOTTY...
...BUT THIS IS WHERE I GET OFF
GROOF! TYPICAL OF US.
WE GO THROUGH ALL THE TROUBLE O' TRAVELIN' HALFWAY ACROSS THE GALAXY IN ORDER TO SAVE THE FLAMIN' UNIVERSE...
...GET YANKED IN T' SOME KIND O' PSIONIC RIFT...
...AND WIND UP SKULKIN' IN THE SHADOWS AND HANGIN' OUT IN SOME SORTA CARGO HOLD OF A SPACESHIP.
THE GLAMOROUS LIFE OF AN X-MAN...EH, WOLVERINE?
CYCLOPS
BISHOP
PHOENIX
THE BEAST
STORM
GAMBIT
BORN IN ANOTHER TIME AND PLACE--
--THEY LIVE IN AN ERA OF EARTH'S HISTORY WHERE THEY ARE FEARED AND HATED FOR BEING DIFFERENT.
FOR BEING MUTANTS
"HE'S ARE THE UNCANNY X-MEN.
HAS YOUR RECONCOITERING RUSSLED UP ANY RELEVANT REVELATIONS, LOGAN?

YEP.
MEANING WHEN WE TELEPORTED OFF OUR SHIP BEFORE THE RIFT TORE IT APART--
--WE DIDN'T LAND IN DEATHBIRD'S STAR CRUISER?
NAH. THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO EASY, JEANNIE.
BUT THEN WE SHOULDA KNOWN WHEN LILANDRA FIRST ASKED US T' TRACK DOWN HER RENEGADE SISTER, DEATHBIRD---
--THAT THE X-MEN WERE GONNA WIND UP KNEE DEEP IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL.
WE'RE NOT ANYWHERE WE WANNA BE.
ALL I FOUND OUT FOR SURE IS THAT WE'RE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PSIONIC RIFT...
...AND DEATHBIRD AND HER IMPERIAL SCOONS HAVE ALREADY MADE A CLAIM ON IT.
WE'RE CHROMED SCHE PLACE CALLED THE STARSHIP ENTERPRISE... PART OF SOME-THING CALLED THE FEDERATION.
RING ANY BELLS, KIDS?
ACCORDING TO THESE READINGS, IT IS SOMETHING CALLED A "NCONSTELLATION CLASS SHIP."
IT'S 289 METERS LONG AND WAS...
HUH?
HANK?
IT WAS COMMISSIONED FOR ACTIVE DUTY, FOR DEEP SPACE EXPLORATION, IN THE YEAR....32457
<SIGH>
ONE MYSTERY AT A TIME, EH?

TRUE, SCOTTY, AS THE RESIDENT DOCTOR, I'M CONCERNED ABOUT GAMBIT'S CONDITION.
HE WAS THE LAST TO TELEPORT OFF THE SHIP, MCCOY.
IS HE GOING TO BE OKAY?
DON'T WORRY 'BOUT ME, MES AMIS...
WE NEED TO GET HIM HELP, CYCLOPS.
YOU'RE RIGHT, STORM. TAKE BEAST AND FIND THE NEAREST CENTER ON THIS SHIP.
IS IT WISE TO SPLIT UP, CYCLOPS?
WE AIN'T GOT MUCH OF A CHOICE, BISHOP.
WOLVERINE IS RIGHT. ABOVE ALL ELSE, WE HAVE TO STOP DEATHBIRD.
IF THE ORIGIN OF THAT PSIONIC RIFT IS WHAT WE THINK IT IS... IT'S THE X-MEN'S PROBLEM.
JEAN, ANYTHING YET?
I'M USING MY MUTANT TELEPATHIC POWERS TO SEARCH THE SHIP...TO TRY AND FIND A WAY OFF AND DOWN TO THE PLANET'S SURFACE.
THIS WAY WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT BEING--

"--DETECTED."
...
FASCINATING.
CAPTAIN, REQUEST PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE BRIDGE.
I BELIEVE IT IS VITAL. YOU WOULD SAY I AM "CHECKING OUT A HUNCH."
RIGHT NOW, SPOCK?
A "HUNCH"?
HOW POSITIVELY... UN-VULCAN.
YOU'LL NOTIFY ME IF YOUR...HUNCH CHECKS OUT?
AT MY EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.
BONES?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE MIXING IT UP WITH THE MOHAWK OUT THERE--
--I'M GOING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS RELATIVE CALM TO START ROLLING BANDAGES IN..

"...SICKBAY".
SEVERAL FLOORS BELOW.
TZZZAKKT!
ANYTHING EXCITING, ORORO?
THE COAST SEEMS RELATIVELY CLEAR, HANK.
AS YOU DEDUCED, THIS IS INDEED THE MEDICAL CENTER.
STARS AND GARTERS!
LOOK AT THIS TECHNOLOGY! IT MAKES THE MED-LAB BACK AT THE MANSION LOOK POSITIVELY... ARCHAIC.
DO YOU BELIEVE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO HELP REMY?
WITH BOTH BLUE FURRED FEET TIED BEHIND MY BACK!
GIVE ME FIVE MINUTES.
TWO IF I CAN FIND AN INSTRUCTION MANUAL.
DEAR GOD, WHAT THE HECK IS HAPPENING HERE?
?!
YULP!

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU-- PEOPLE-- DOING HERE?
THERE IS ACTUALLY QUITE AN APPROPRIATE EXPLANATION FOR THIS, SIR!
PERHAPS WE MIGHT BE AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ELABORATE UPON OUR MOTIVATION FOR--
DOES HE EVER SHUT UP?
I HAVE NOT SEEN THAT, NO.
YOU'RE GOING TO HELP GAMBIT?
OF COURSE. I'M A DOCTOR, DAMMIT--
--NOT THE HEAD OF SECURITY!
RIGHT NOW THIS MAN NEEDS MEDICAL ATTENTION.
NURSE CHAPEL!
I NEED 10 MILLILITERS OF CORDAZINE.
NOW!
BUT WE DON'T HAVE ANY PATIENTS RIGHT N--
DOCTOR MCCOY?!
WHAT?

ELSEWHERE ON THE SHIP
ACCORDING TO THE BEAST, THERE SHOULD BE SOMETHING OF A SHUTTLE BAY IN THIS DIRECTION.
IF THERE WAS ANOTHER WAY AROUND THIS--
--STEALING THE ENTERPRISE'S SHUTTLE CRAFT AND MAKING IT DOWN TO THE PLANET BELOW--
--I'D GLADLY DO IT. BUT THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS...
THIS IS ESSENTIALLY THE X-MEN'S PROBLEM, AND THE FEWER PEOPLE WE INVOLVE WHILE WE'RE HERE, THE BETTER.
WHILE THAT SOUNDS IMMINENTLY LOGICAL I MUST DISSUADE YOU FROM ACCOMPLISHING THIS PARTICULAR TASK.
THAT'S THE ONE FROM THE BRIDGE. HE'S CALLED SPOCK.
HOW'D HE FIND US DOWN HERE?
I BECAME AWARE THAT SOMEONE ON THE SHIP WITH ADVANCED PSIONIC ABILITIES WAS ATTEMPTING TO PROBE MY THOUGHTS.
AS NO ONE CURRENTLY SERVING ON THE ENTERPRISE HAS SUCH CAPABILITIES, I BEGAN LOOKING FOR OTHER LIFE FORMS. I DID NOT DETECT ANY.
BUT I KNEW THIS ACCESS WAY, BEHIND ENGINEERING, BEING CLOAKED IN THE ENERGY OUTPUT FROM THE DILITHIUM CRYSTALS, MIGHT PROVIDE A LOGICAL HIDING PLACE.

NOW, IF YOU WILL ACCOMPANY ME TO SECURITY, I WILL NOT BE FORCED TO--
SORRY, BUB--
--BUT WE'RE ON THE CLOCK, HERE!
AND THE X-MEN AIN'T IN THE HABIT OF ANSWERING TO NO ONE!
WOLVERINE-- NO!
DON'T WORRY, CYKE--I WON'T HURT HIM.
MUCH!
CLAK!
MORE ACCURATELY, WOLVERINE--
--YOU WILL NOT HURT ME AT ALL.
PINCH!
?!
I TRUST I HAVE MADE MY POINT.

WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?
IT IS CALLED A VULCAN NERVE PINCH.
ITS EFFECT ON HUMANS IS ONLY TEMPORARY.
HE WILL REMAIN UNCONSCIOUS FOR APPROXIMATELY--
I GOTCHA' NERVE PINCH RIGHT HERE, SPOCK!
?!
FASCINATING.
IT'S CALLED A HEALING FACTOR, BUB--
--IT'S JUST ONE O' THE FRINGE BENEFITS OF BEIN' A MUTANT.
MUTANT, AS IN THE OLD EARTH TERM "HOMO SAPIEN SUPERIOR"?
SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT TO ME. NOW UNLESS YA' WANT ME TO BOP THOSE POINTY EARS OF YERS, MISTER SPOCK--
--NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO TAKE US TO YER LEADER.
SCHLAKT!

THE BRIDGE
CAPTAIN'S LOG:
SUPPLEMENTAL
After all but declaring INTERGALACTIC WAR in a DESOLATE section of Federation space...
...the SHI'AR EMPIRE sits in orbit around Delta Vega, WAITING.
But more DAUNTING than the threat of having to ENGAGE an openly hostile enemy--
--is the feeling in my gut that the PSIONIC ANOMALY...this SPACE RIFT...is somehow TIED INTO the final fate of Gary Mitchell.
The Enterprise BARELY DEFEATED him in an EARLIER encounter when he was in the RELATIVELY NASCENT STAGE of MUTATION.
If he IS back--if he's somehow managed to SURVIVE what we assumed was his death...
...if he is STRONGER than he was BEFORE...
...then we are CERTAINLY facing the GREATEST CHALLENGE of our FIVE-YEAR MISSION.
McCOY TO BRIDGE.
WHAT IS IT NOW, BONES? I HAVE MY HANDS FULL UP HERE
ACTUALLY, JIM--I'VE MADE SOME NEW FRIENDS DOWN IN SICKBAY WHO MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP YOU OUT.
ON MY WAY.
MR. SCOTT, YOU HAVE THE CONN.
ANY SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS, SIR?
JUST THE USUAL, SCOTTY--
--BE PREPARED..
..FOR ANYTHING!

CAPTAIN, I FOUND THESE PEOPLE ON DECK 19.
THEY CALL THEMSELVES THE X-MEN.
THEY HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY HAVE FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF BOTH THE PSIONIC ANOMALY--
--AND THE SHI'AR EMPIRE.
CAPTAIN JAMES KIRK, I AM CYCLOPS.
I DON'T SUPPOSE THERE ARE ANY MORE "X-MEN" ABOARD IN THE SICKBAY, PERHAPS?
THAT WOULD BE STORM, GAMBIT AND BEAST.
OF COURSE IT WOULD.
MR. SPOCK-- DID THESE PEOPLE GIVE YOU ANY INDICATION OF WHERE THEY'RE FROM?
THAT IS THE PART THAT DEFIES LOGIC, CAPTAIN.
THEY CLAIM TO HAVE COME FROM EARTH.
AND IF YER HALF THE SPACE COWBOY SPOCK CLAIMS YA' ARE-- WE'RE IN A POSITION TO KICK SOME MAJOR SHI'AR BUTT!

AT THAT MOMENT... ON THE BRIDGE OF THE SHI'AR WARSHIP..
SO TELL ME, VIZIER, WHAT HAS OUR SCIENCE FLOCK LEARNED ABOUT THE PSIONIC ANOMALY SINCE I DEFIED MY SISTER AND BROUGHT US HERE TO THE OTHER SIDE?
IT IS JUST AS THEY THEORIZED, DEATHBIRD.
THE PSIONIC ENERGY IS APPARENTLY SELF-GENERATING... MAKING IT, IN THEORY, A POTENTIALLY INEXHAUSTIBLE SUPPLY OF ENERGY.
OUR SENSORS INDICATE THE SOURCE OF THE ENERGY--WHICH BEGAN IN OUR OWN UNIVERSE--HAS SITUATED ITSELF ON THE PLANET BELOW.
UNFORTUNATELY, IT APPEARS THE PLANET FALLS UNDER THE DOMAIN OF THE SO-CALLED FEDERATION OF UNITED PLANETS.
I CARE NOTHING FOR THE POLITICS OF THESE INSIGNIFICANT EARTH-BASED CREATURES, VIZIER.
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT IT WOULD MEAN IF I POSSESSED A POWER SOURCE SITUATED ON THE CUSP OF OUR UNIVERSE AND ONE OTHER?
THERE IS A MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERN THAN THE ENTERPRISE, DEATHBIRD--FOR SURELY THE IMPERIAL GUARD COULD DESTROY THEM EASILY ENOUGH.
THERE IS A LIFE FORM WHICH EXISTS ON THE PLANET.
HUMANOID IN NATURE, WE CAN NOT TELL IF IT IS NATIVE TO DELTA VEGA.
BUT IT APPEARS IT IS CONTROLLING THE FLUCTUATION OF THE UNSTABLE PSIONIC ENERGY.
THEN PREPARE A LANDING PARTY, GLADIATOR...
...AND LET US DISCOVER IF THIS CREATURE IS AN ALLY--OR AN OBSTACLE.

UNTIL AN HOUR AGO...
...DELTA VEGA WAS A FAIRLY INHOSPITABLE PLANET--A FORMER MINING SUBSTATION LONG AGO ABANDONED AND CORRODED OFF FROM CIVILIZATION'S RADAR SCREENS
BUT THAT WAS BEFORE THE LANDSCAPE BEGAN ITS TRANSFORMATION INTO SOMETHING MORE... FAMILIAR.
BEFORE ROCK AND MUD BEGAN FLOWING AND INTO GLASS AND COBBLESTONE.
THIS WAS BEFO
A FORMER ADVERSARY OF THE X-MEN, FROM AN
AND THE UNIVERSE WILL NEVER BE THE SAME.
VISITORS, ON THEIR
GOOD.
HIS GOAL WAS TO SEARCH THE HEAVENS FOR A KINDRED SPIRIT. A FELLOW HUMAN CAPABLE OF GRASPING THE MAJESTY AND MAGNITUDE OF WHAT IT MEANS TO WIELD ALL OF REALITY WITHIN THE PSIONIC GRIP OF A SINGLE THOUGHT
HE DISCOVERED THAT ESSENCE IN THE LONG DEAD BODY OF LT. COMMANDER GARY MITCHELL
TOGETHER, THEY BECAME
ALONE

THE BRIEFING ROOM ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE.
DEATHBIRD'S SOJOURN NOTWITHSTANDING, WE DON'T KNOW IF THIS PSIONIC RIFT STARTED IN OUR UNIVERSE OR YOUR OWN.
THAT ASSUMES WE ACTUALLY COME FROM TWO DIFFERENT UNIVERSES, DR. McCOY.
KEPTIN--
--THE SENSORS INDICATE THAT THE RIFT IS EXPANDING AGAIN.
THAT CAN'T BE A GOOD SIGN
IT IS AS IF IT IS TAKING ON A LIFE OF ITS OWN.
EARLIER, I DETECTED NO SENTIENCE PRESENT, CAPTAIN. IT SEEMS THAT IS NO LONGER THE CASE. IT IS MUTATING...
THEN WE NEED TO GET DOWN TO THE PLANET. PREPARE A LANDING PARTY, SPOCK.
BE PROTEUS, JEAN. MAYBE LANDRA SUSPECTED THIS WHEN SHE SOT THE X-MEN INVOLVED?
IF WE DON'T STOP THIS HERE AND NOW, WE RUN THE RISK OF ENCOUNTERING A DANGER FAR WORSE THAN A SPATIAL RIFT

A MOMENT LATER, AFTER EVERYONE HAS CLEARED THE ROOM...
CAPTAIN KIRK, AS A MUTANT--I WAS BORN WITH CERTAIN ATTRIBUTES.
NOT THE LEAST OF WHICH IS BEAUTY, PHOENIX.
MY HUSBAND CYCLOPS THINKS SO.
OH.
I CAN SENSE THINGS, READ MINDS, AND WHILE I DON'T LIKE TO PRY...IT IS CLEAR, TO ME ANYWAY, THAT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PSIONIC RIFT YOU'RE NOT SHARING.
THIS IS CLASSIFIED INFORMATION, BUT...YOU PROBABLY NEED TO KNOW IT:
DELTA VEGA IS WHERE MY BEST FRIEND WAS BURIED IN A WAY, HE DIED BY MY HAND.
HE HAD SOMEHOW ACQUIRED THE ABILITY TO RESHAPE REALITY WITH HIS MIND.
GARY COULDN'T BE ALLOWED TO ROAM THE GALAXY WITH--
WITH MUTANT POWERS.
IS THAT A REASON TO KILL SOMEONE?
DON'T BE UNFAIR, JEAN. I HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH MUTANTS, WITH ANY SENTIENT LIFE FORM.
IT'S OMNIPOTENT BEINGS INTENT ON DESTROYING EVERYTHING IN THEIR PATHS THAT CONCERN ME.
I...CAN UNDERSTAND THAT.
IT WAS THE HARDEST THING I'VE EVER HAD TO DO, TO BE HONEST...
...IF, IN SOME WAY, GARY RETURNED...
...I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO IT AGAIN.

CAPTAIN'S LOG:
SUPPLEMENTAL
The COMMAND CREW of the Enterprise, along with MOST of the X-Men, have beamed down to the planet's surface.
...only to encounter what APPEARS to be a SCOTTISH VILLAGE.
KEPTIN, THIS MAKES NO SENSE.
ACCORDING TO OUR SENSORS, VE SHOULD HAVE BEAMED DOWN ON AN OPEN PLAIN.
THIS TOWN SHOULDN'T BE HERE!
ALSO, KIRK--IT SEEMS TO VALIDATE OUR CONCERN THAT THIS THREAT BEGAN SPECIFICALLY IN OUR ERA.
YOU'VE BEEN LESS THAN FORTHCOMING, CYCLOPS.
ONLY BECAUSE LILANDRA ONLY GAVE US PART OF THE STORY.
MORE IMPORTANT THAN THIS, HOWEVER, IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT TWO SEPARATE THREATS HAVE FORMED A THIRD.
YOU MUST BE REFERRING TO ME, WIND RIDER...

OR SHOULD I SAY HUSH?
HOW GRACIOUS THAT YOU'VE ALL DECIDED TO JOIN OUR CELEBRATION
YOU SEE DEATHBIRD WITH HER IMPERIAL GUARD HERE HAS OFFERED US HER STAR CRUISER AS A WAY FOR US TO LEAVE THIS PLANET ONCE AND FOR ALL--
SO THAT WE MIGHT AT LAST TAKE OUR PROPER PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE
THE FACT THAT YOU'RE ALL HERE ONLY MAKES IT EASIER.
IT MEANS WE DON'T HAVE TO COME LOOKING FOR YOU
GARY?!
PROTEUS?!
FRIEND OF YOURS?

THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS, WE ARE FRIENDS OF NO ONE.
IN OUR ORIGINAL INCARNATION, AS PROTEUS, I LEFT EARTH IN SEARCH OF A MEANS TO RECORPORATE MYSELF.
I NEEDED A VESSEL IN WHICH TO POUR MY PSIONIC ESSENCE, A HUMAN BODY WHICH WOULD NOT BURN OUT OVER TIME LIKE MY PREVIOUS HOSTS.
IN MY SEARCH, I WAS ATTRACTED TO THE PSIONIC RIFT... WHICH TURNED OUT TO BE A DOORWAY BETWEEN OUR REALITY AND ONE OTHER.
ONCE HERE, I ENCOUNTERED THE ECHO OF THE LONG [illegible] MITCHELL.
HERE, ON DELTA VEGA, I DISCOVERED A FORM WHICH WAS CAPABLE OF HOLDING MY PSIONIC ENERGY... AND MORE!
BY BONDING PROTEUS AND MITCHELL-- WE DISCOVERED WE HAVE THE POWER TO CONTROL THE RIFT...
...AND WITH IT, ALL OF REALITY!

THIS ENTIRE PLANET IS TEARING ITSELF APART!
SEEMS LIKE A HECK O' TIME FOR SOMEBODY WHO CLAIMS THEY CAN RESHAPE THE WHOLE FLAMIN' UNIVERSE!
UNLESS HE CAN'T... YET!
THEN WE STILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO STOP HIM-- THEM--BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE
ENTERPRISE TO KIRK.
KIRK HERE
THE RIFT IS EXPANDING QUITE ERRATICALLY.
IT LOOKS AS IF OUR "FRIENDS" REACH IS EXCEEDING HIS GRASP.
ANY SUGGESTIONS?
MY MUTANT ABILITY IS SUCH THAT I CAN RECHANNEL VAST AMOUNTS OF ENERGY.
I MIGHT BE OF MORE USE ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE.
SPOCK, ONE TO BEAM UP.
LOWERING SHIELDS NOW, CAPTAIN.

MR. SPOCK, IF I MIGHT BE ALLOWED TO POSTULATE-- TO PONTIFICATE AT THE VERY LEAST...?
YOUR PREVIOUS ENCOUNTERS LOGICALLY DICTATE THAT YOUR INPUT WOULD PROVE VALUABLE.
WHAT IF--AND THIS MIGHT SOUND CRAZY --YOU CAN USE THE ENTERPRISE'S TRACTOR BEAM TO EVISCERATE A HUGE QUANTITY OF THE RUT ITSELF?
POSSIBLE.
BUT IT WOULD STILL LEAVE US WITH THE TASK OF DISPERSING THAT ENERGY.
IS THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN USE THE, WHAT DO YOU CALL THEM, "PHASER BANKS," TO TAKE OUT THE ENTITY DOWN BELOW?
NOT WITHOUT RISKING THE LIVES OF THE CAPTAIN AND THE OTHERS...
...AND EVEN THEN, IT IS LIKELY THAT MR. MITCHELL WOULD BE ABLE TO COUNTER SUCH A DIRECT ATTACK.
MR. SPOCK, SIR--
--I BELIEVE WE HAVE THE ANSWER TO THAT WEE PROBLEM RIGHT DOWN HERE IN ENGINEERING.

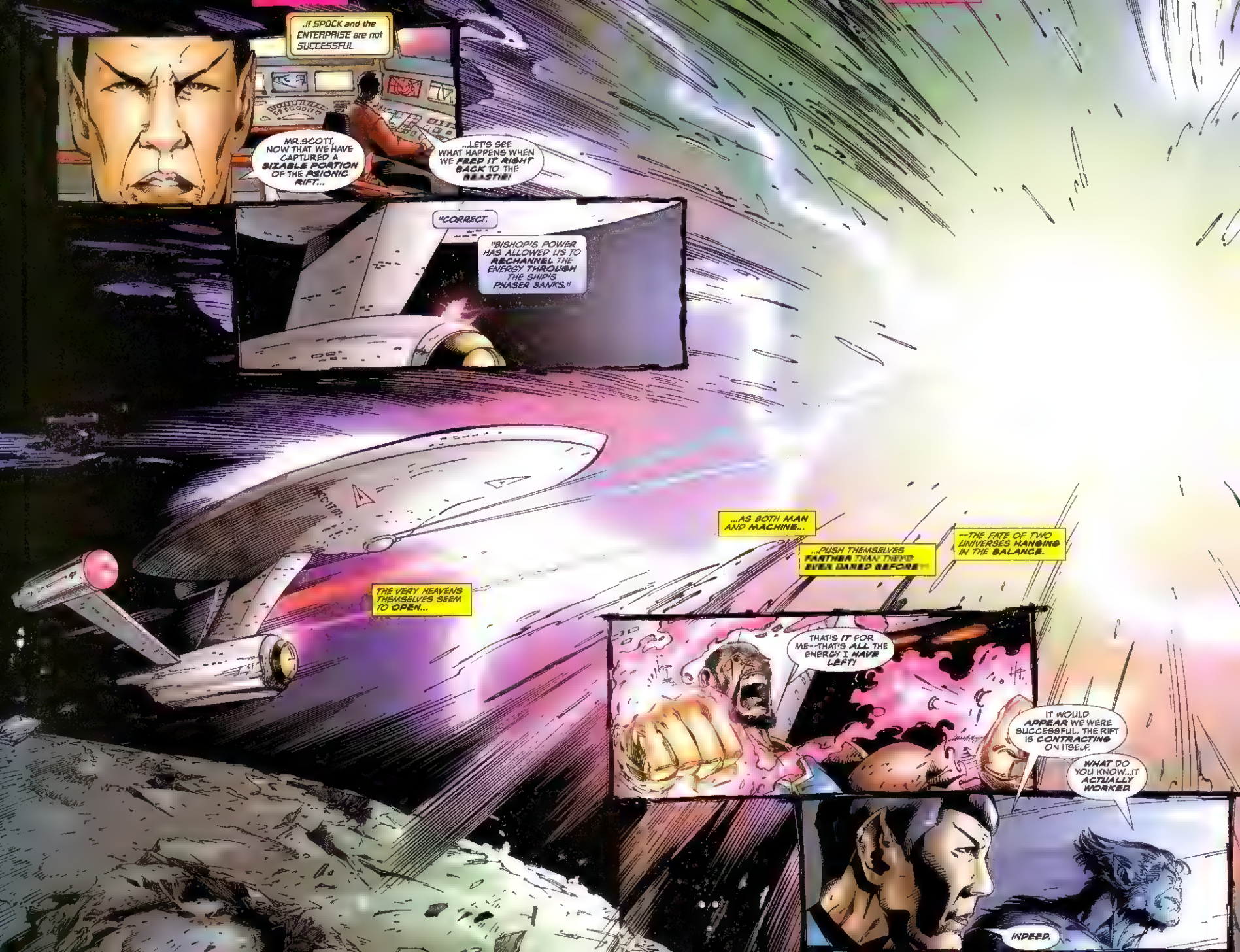
PROTEUS... THIS FORCE FIELD?
YOU PRESUMED TOO MUCH, DEATHBIRD THINKING THAT WE NEEDED AN ALLY!
ATTACK HIM, X-MEN!
FINE FOR THE FAT LOT O' GOOD I DOES UZ.
EVEN YOUR PHASERS DON'T WORK
NOTHING WORKS!
NOTHING BUT WHAT WE ALLOW!
ARE YOU ALL SO FOOLISH THAT YOU DON'T KNOW TO BOW BEFORE A GOD?
JEAN, I NEED TO TALK TO GARY
CAN YOU USE YOUR POWERS TO GET ME INTO HIS MIND?!

YOU ARE YOU HAVE YOUR LIFE A STABLE, SECURE LIFE. SOMEONE WHO LOVES YOU. SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO SPEND THE REST OF THEIR LIFE WITH YOU.
I DID WHAT I HAD TO BECAUSE THE POWER YOU HAD CORRUPTED YOU.
YES. I ACTED OUT OF FEAR--BUT THAT FEAR WAS JUSTIFIED
I GOT A GLIMPSE OF SHADOW KING AND PROTEUS ARE OUT OF CONTROL.

WHY DON'T YOU CREATURES JUST CURL UP AND DIE?!
SORRY, BUB--
--THAT AIN'T OUR STYLE!
A FISSURE... OPENING UP IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE!
I HAVE YOU, UHURA--CHEKOV, MY WIND POWER WILL KEEP YOU ALOFT.
AND YOU SAY YOU PEOPLE DO THIS ALL THE TIME?
SPOCK TO LANDING PARTY
WE ARE GOING TO ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THE PSIONIC RIFT.
YOU COLD-BLOODED VULCAN, YOU CAN'T!!
JIM AND JEAN ARE IN HIS MIND-- IF HE DIES, THEY DIE!
THAT'S A RISK THEY UNDERSTOOD BEFORE GOING IN.
MR. SPOCK--
--DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO!
MR. SCOTT.
ACTIVATE THE TRACTOR BEAM ON MY COMMAND.

THIS ISN'T ABOUT WHAT WE'RE DOING, GARY
IT'S ABOUT YOU.
JEAN IS RIGHT, GARY--AND YOU KNOW IT.
YOU DESTROY US...? FINE, EASY ENOUGH TO DO.
BUT THEN WHAT? THERE ARE MILLIONS OF LIVES--COUNTLESS LIFE FORMS THROUGHOUT TWO UNIVERSES...
ARE YOU GOING TO DESTROY THEM ALL?
DESTROY EVERYTHING THAT IS DIFFERENT FROM YOU?
ARRGGHH!
Y-YOU'RE TEARING AWAY AT THE SOURCE OF MY--OUR--
YOU'RE TRYING TO TEAR US APART!
BUT WE WON'T ALLOW THAT!
BUT...JIM... I'VE ALREADY DIED ONCE.
I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO SAY GOOD-BYE AGAIN.
ARE YOU WILLING TO HOLD ON TO LIFE AT THE COST OF YOUR OWN HUMANITY?
NO, JIM
PLEASE, STOP ME... STOP US, NOW
WE WON'T ALLOW US TO DIE AGAIN!
GARY, I'M SORRY.
With a SINGLE PHASER BLAST~

--the combined force of the ENTERPRISE and the X-MEN TOGETHER..
...UNLEASH enough POWER AT ONCE TO--
--with ANY LUCK--
--DESTROY a god
ALL of this will be for NOTHING, though...


..If SPOCK and the ENTERPRISE are not SUCCESSFUL
MR.SCOTT, NOW THAT WE HAVE CAPTURED A SIZABLE PORTION OF THE PSIONIC RIFT...
...LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE FEED IT RIGHT BACK TO THE BLASTER!
"CORRECT.
"BISHOP'S POWER HAS ALLOWED US TO RECHANNEL THE ENERGY THROUGH THE SHIP'S PHASER BANKS."
...AS BOTH MAN AND MACHINE...
...PUSH THEMSELVES FARTHER THAN THEY'VE EVER DARED BEFORE!
--THE FATE OF TWO UNIVERSES HANGING IN THE BALANCE.
THE VERY HEAVENS THEMSELVES SEEM TO OPEN...
THAT'S IT FOR ME--THAT'S ALL THE ENERGY I HAVE LEFT!
IT WOULD APPEAR WE WERE SUCCESSFUL. THE RIFT IS CONTRACTING ON ITSELF.
WHAT DO YOU KNOW...IT ACTUALLY WORKED!
INDEED.

GARY?!
CAPTAIN KIRK, I AM CREATING WINDS TO SIFT THROUGH THE DEBRIS, BUT I AM AFRAID--
--THERE IS NOTHING TO BE FOUND.
HE'S DEAD, JIM.
HE'S BEEN DEAD FOR A WHILE.
MAYBE NOW HE CAN FINALLY REST AT PEACE WITH HIMSELF.
DON'T THINK THIS IS OVER, X-MEN!
SAY DE WORD, CYCLOPS.
DEATHBIRD, WE WERE SENT HERE BY ORDER OF THE SH'IAR MAJESTRIX.
BY HER AUTHORITY, WE ARE COMMANDEERING YOUR CRAFT AND RETURNING YOU TO OUR BAR.
WE'LL GO... BUT ONLY BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR US HERE.
HERE I WAS HOPIN' FOR A REMATCH.

SOON..
SCOTT, WE MUST LEAVE NOW BEFORE THE RIFT CLOSES FOR GOOD.
CAPTAIN KIRK, THE X-MEN HAVE HAD MORE THAN A LITTLE EXPERIENCE WITH ALTERNATIVE FUTURES.
HOWEVER, NONE OF THEM HAVE OFFERED THE HOPE THAT YOU AND YOUR CREW HAVE PRESENTED TO US.
I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW! IT'S ENCOURAGING TO BELIEVE THAT BOTH HUMANS AND MUTANTS HAVE A FUTURE WORTH FIGHTING FOR.
I FEEL SAFE IN SAYING THAT YOU AND THE SACRIFICES YOU PEOPLE HAVE MADE--
--ARE A GOOD PART OF THE REASON THAT WE'VE MADE IT THIS FAR AS A RACE.
With those PARTING WORDS, the X-Men were beamed to the SHI'AR STARCRUISER--
--a moment later, they departed through the rift in the INSTANT before it CLOSED.

the Universe returning to what PASSES for normal
WELL, THAT WAS FUN--WASN'T IT, SPOCK?
ACTUALLY, I WOULD CLASSIFY IT MORE AS... INSPIRATIONAL, DOCTOR.
IT IS ENCOURAGING TO SEE SOME HUMANS WHO ARE ABLE TO RISE ABOVE THE BOUNDARIES IMPOSED BY GENETICS.
WHAT ARE YOU IMPLYING, SPOCK?
I AM IMPLYING NOTHING. I WAS SIMPLY--
GENTLEMEN, PLEASE.
MR. SULU, BRING US OUT OF ORBIT.
AYE, CAPTAIN. WHERE TO, SIR?
TO THE FUTURE, MR. SULU.
TO THE FUTURE.
END

STAR TREK X-MEN

PIN-UP GALLERY

A STAR TREK/
X-MEN
EXTRAVAGANZA,
BY TERRY
DODSON &
RACHEL
PINNOCK.
DODSON
AND
PINNOCK

FOR ONCE, A SPEECHLESS SPOCK
SPACE ODYSSEY BY MIKE DEODATO JR
MIKE DEODATO JR

TREK CLASSIC
BY STEVE EPTING

A SCENE WE'VE *ALL* WANTED TO SEE, BROUGHT TO YOU BY *GARY FRANK* & *CAM SMITH*

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